



# The Amazing Adventure of the Hungry Whale and the Clever Mariner

In the deep, sparkling sea, far away from anywhere, there lived a gigantic, cheerful Whale. Oh, my dear little listeners, this Whale was not just any whale, but a grand, blue giant who loved to munch and crunch on fish. His menu was vast: starry starfish, glittering garfish, clickety crabs, dapper dabs, smiling plaices, dancing daces, skippy skates and their mates, and, of course, the twirly-whirly eels that wriggled like little tickling snakes.

He gobbled them up, one by one, until, oh no! There was just one tiny, clever fish left in the whole sea. This little fish, known as 'Stute, was smart enough to swim right near the Whale's enormous ear, a safe spot to avoid becoming a snack!

Then, one sunny day, the Whale stood up tall on his tail, which was quite a sight, and declared, "I'm so, so hungry!" The little 'Stute Fish, with a voice as small as a whisper, said, "Mighty Whale, have you ever tried eating a Man?"

"A Man?" wondered the Whale, curious as a cat. "What do they taste like?"

"Oh, they're deliciously nubbly!" replied 'Stute.

And so, the Whale, making big waves with his mighty tail, set off on an adventure to find this 'Man'. The clever 'Stute Fish gave him directions to a magical spot in the ocean: latitude Fifty North, longitude Forty West. There, floating on a tiny raft in the middle of the endless blue sea, was a shipwrecked Mariner. This Mariner was no ordinary man; he was full of wit and had tricks up his sleeve!

When the Whale found the Mariner, he opened his mouth wider and wider, and with a big gulp, swallowed the man, his raft, his blue trousers, and even his suspenders!

But inside the Whale, the Mariner was not afraid. He thumped and bumped, danced and pranced, making such a ruckus that the Whale felt quite unwell. "What to do, what to do?" the Whale wondered aloud.

"Let him out," suggested the 'Stute Fish.

And so, the Whale, with a polite request, asked the Mariner to step out. But the Mariner, oh, he was clever! He asked to be taken back to his home first. After a bit of persuading and more dancing inside the Whale's belly, the Whale agreed.

As they reached the Mariner's home, the Whale opened his mouth, and out stepped the Mariner. But wait! The Mariner had been busy. He had crafted a special grating from his raft and fixed it inside the Whale's throat with his suspenders. Now the Whale could no longer eat anything big!

From that day on, the Whale could only eat tiny fish, and that's why whales today don't munch on men or boys or little girls. The Whale swam away happily, feeling much lighter without the Mariner inside.

As for the 'Stute Fish, he cleverly hid under the warm sands near the Equator, happy to have helped in such a grand adventure.

And the Mariner? He went home, a story to tell and a jack-knife in his pocket, ready for his next great adventure!

### **"The Tale of Fifty North and Forty West"**

*When your room turns wobbly and the sea sings its song,  
When stewards trip and trunks dance along,  
When Nursey snoozes and Mummy whispers, 'shh',  
You'll find yourself in a whale of a tale,  
At Fifty North and Forty West, where adventures never fail!*